

NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN PIOPHILIDAE. III.¹
(DIPTERA)

GEORGE C. STEYSKAL, *Systematic Entomology Laboratory,
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20560*

The types of some species of *Piophila* subgenus *Liopiophila* described by Melander and Spuler (1917) and Melander (1924), now deposited in the U. S. National Museum, were dissected in order to examine the male postabdomen and thus more firmly establish their identity. Lectotypes have been selected for three species, the names of two of which are now in synonymy. Bibliographic citations for all names will be found in the Catalog of the Diptera of America north of Mexico (Stone *et al.*, 1965).

***Piophila (Liopiophila) nigrimana* Meigen**
(Fig. 1)

Piophila occipitalis Melander and Spuler, 1917. **New synonym.**

Piophila morator Melander, 1924. **New synonym.**

Piophila privigna Melander, 1924. Synonymy confirmed.

Examination of the male postabdomen of European and North and South American material of this species, as well as the types of *P. occipitalis* (lectotype from "Chicago, Illinois"), *P. morator* (unique male from "Pullman, Washington"), and *P. privigna* (lectotype from "Woods Hole, Massachusetts, 7-21-2"), has revealed a wide variation in general body color but a consistent and characteristic conformation of the postabdomen (fig. 1), with the bent peg on the sternum mentioned in my last note in this series. The peg is best considered as situated on the margin of the 7th sternum, rather than on the 6th, though these two sclerites are more or less fused. The long, coiled aedeagus is bare for an appreciable distance basally, and a ligulate sclerite (likely the anterior gonite) bears a pair of anteriorly directed setae, usually dark in color. The hypandrium in ventral view (h) is rather broadly bridged across where the basal part of the basiphallus is invaginated to form the phallapodeme.

The posterior margin of the 5th sternum is decidedly sinuate.

Some of the material examined has the characters of coloration ascribed to *Piophila nigricornis* Meigen, a rarely captured European species. In view of the variation in color in extra-European material, it is highly probable that *P. nigricornis* also will be found to be merely a color variant of *P. nigrimana*. The front of *P. nigrimana* is usually largely yellowish, the antenna often infusate apically, and the fore coxa and femur are sometimes wholly black, though usually the fore coxa is yellow and the fore femur is yellow basally for some distance.

¹ See these Proceedings 60:246, 1958 (paper I); 66:177-181, 1964 (paper II).

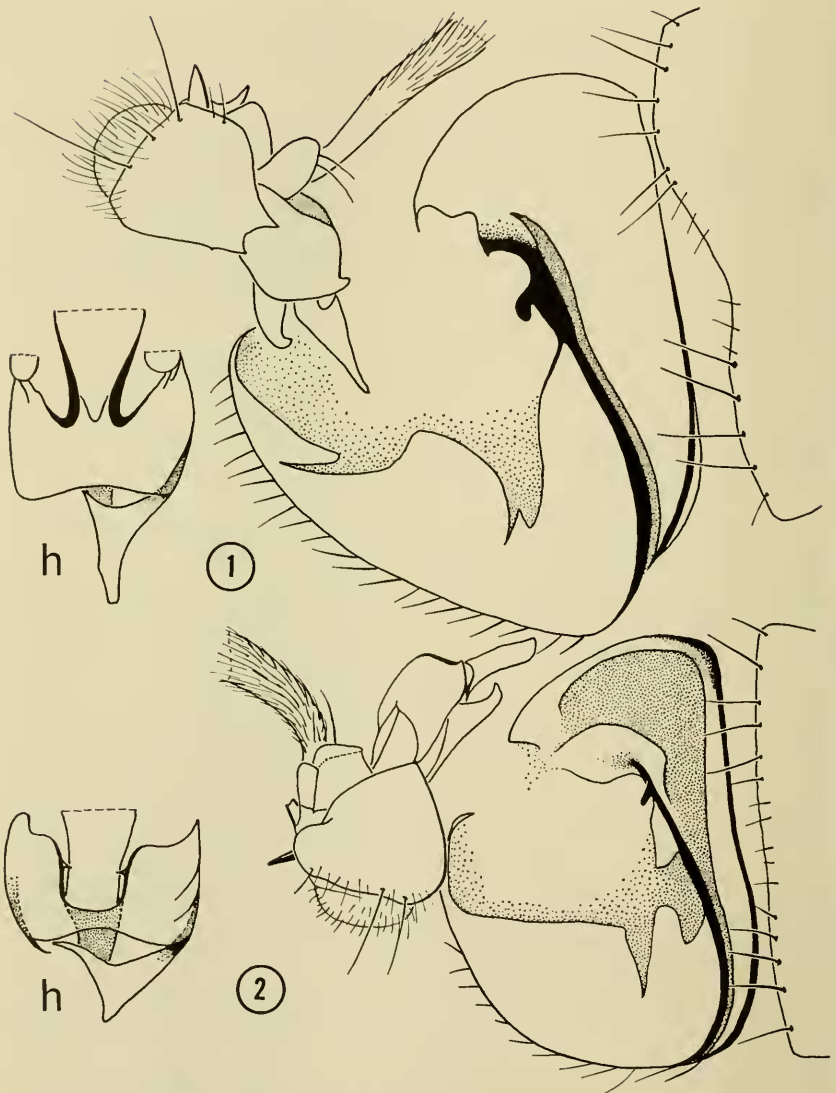


Fig. 1. *Piophila (Liopiophila) nigrimana* Meigen, male, Chicago, Illinois (lectotype of *P. occipitalis* Melander and Spuler), postabdomen. h = ventral view of hypandrium; fig. 2. *Piophila (Liopiophila) nigricoxa* Melander and Spuler, male, Pullman, Washington (lectotype), postabdomen. h = ventral view of hypandrium.

Piophila (Liopiophila) nigricoxa Melander and Spuler
(Fig. 2)

The postabdomen of *P. nigricoxa* is distinctly different from that of *P. nigrimana*; the peg of the 7th sternum is inclined but not bent, and the sclerotization of the 6th and 7th sterna differs in a number of ways. The long, coiled aedeagus is haired nearly to the base; the broad anterior gonite bears a long, apically directed, usually pale seta; and the hypandrium (h) is only narrowly bridged across where it becomes invaginated to form the phallapodeme.

The posterior margin of the 5th sternum is virtually straight.

External characters distinguishing *P. nigricoxa* from *P. nigrimana* are hard to find. In the available specimens, the front is black posteriorly and becomes abruptly yellowish at about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the distance from the anterior ocellus to the anterior frontal margin; the antenna is bright orange-yellow; and the fore coxa and femur are black, except the extreme tip of the latter. At each side of the lower part of the back of the head in both species is a broad band of whitish pruinosity.

A male from "Pullman, Wash." has been selected as lectotype.

REFERENCES

- Melander, A. L. 1924. Review of the dipterous family Piophilidae. *Psyche* 31:78-86.
- and A. Spuler. 1917. The dipterous families Sepsidae and Piophilidae. *Bull. Wash. Agr. Exp. Sta.* 143:1-103.
- Stone, A., et al., eds. 1965. A catalog of the Diptera of America north of Mexico. U. S. Dept. Agr., *Agr. Handbook* 276:1-1696.

THE GENUS MICROPLATYMERUS OF THE SEYCHELLES¹
(COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE: COSSONINAE)

ELWOOD C. ZIMMERMAN, *Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii*

In 1908, Hugh Scott collected a large series of a small, amber-colored weevil from leaf bases of the strange coco-de-mer palm (*Lodoicea maldivica*) on Praslin Island, Seychelles, Indian Ocean. These were described as a new genus and new species, *Microplatymerus lodoiceivorus*, by George Champion in his report on the Curculionidae collected by the Percy Sladen Trust Expedition to the Indian Ocean in 1905 [*Trans. Linnean Soc. London (II-Zoology)* 16(14):451-452, pl. 24, figs. 37, 37 a-c, 1914], and since then the weevil has remained an enigma. Most unfortunately, numerous errors were made by Cham-

¹ This is number 14 of a series of reports resulting from studies made possible by National Science Foundation Grant G-18933.